

REMARKS

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description.

The Examiner states that the reference sign "662" recited in Figure 6 is not mentioned in the specification.

The specification, in paragraph [0036] on page 9, has been amended to include reference sign "662."

Applicant, accordingly, respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84 (p)(5) because they include reference signs not mentioned in the description.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 4 because "a energy" was recited in previous claim 1 and the term "the microwave source" lacks antecedent bases.

Claim 4 has been amended to include "the energy" and "a microwave source."

The Examiner objected to claim 9 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim because claim 9 depended on claim 8, which has been cancelled.

Claim 9 has been amended to depend on claim 1.

The Examiner objected to claim 15 because "a chip" was recited in previous claim 11.

Claim 15 has been amended to include "the chip."

Applicant, accordingly, respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections to claims 4, 9, and 15.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 4-7, 9, 11-17, 19, 21-22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Goto.

Claim 1 has been amended to include a holder contacting the guiding enclosure to keep the energy within the guiding enclosure. Specifically, claim 1 includes the limitation "a holder with a top portion contacting a bottom portion of the guiding enclosure to keep the energy from the energy source within the guiding enclosure."

Goto does not disclose a holder contacting the guiding enclosure to keep the energy within the guiding enclosure. Goto discloses a plasma processing system that supplies plasma producing energy by propagating microwave radiation from the surface of an antenna into a space defined by a processing vessel to produce a plasma (Col. 1, lines 8-11). As illustrated in Figure 1, the plasma etching system 20 has a processing vessel 22, which has a sidewall and a bottom wall formed of a conductive material such as aluminum (Col. 4, lines 9-13). A table 24 for supporting a semiconductor wafer W is disposed in the processing vessel 22 (Col. 4, lines 17-19).

A microwave transmitting window 60 is put on the top wall of the processing vessel 22 to introduce microwaves into the processing vessel 22 (Col. 4, lines 61-63). A microwave generator 86 generates microwaves which are guided by a rectangular waveguide 88 to a rectangular/coaxial converter 95 and are transmitted by the converter 95 through a coaxial line 90 to a central portion of a plane antenna 62 (Col. 5, lines 34-38). Goto makes no mention of a holder to keep energy within the guiding enclosure. Specifically, Goto does not disclose a holder contacting the guiding enclosure to keep the energy within the guiding enclosure.

Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Goto because claim 1 includes a limitation that is not disclosed by Goto. Furthermore, claim 1 has been amended with the limitations from claim 10, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions that claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2, 4 -7, 9, and 11-15 are dependent on claim 1 and should be allowable for the reasons as claim 1.

Claim 16 has been amended to include the predetermined composition having more than one material which can absorb the energy at different absorption rates. Specifically, claim 16 includes the limitation "the absorbing piece having a predetermined composition that includes more than one material, each material capable of absorbing the energy at a different absorption rate."

Goto, in this regard, discloses a microwave absorbing means 96 that is disposed on a peripheral portion of the plane antenna 62 (Col. 5, lines 53-55). The

microwave absorbing means 96 has a plurality of concentric, annular liquid containers (Col. 5, line 66 – Col. 6, line 1.) The liquid containers contain a microwave absorbing liquid (Col. 6, lines 8-9). The temperature of the microwave absorbing liquid contained in the liquid containers rises when the microwave absorbing liquid absorbs microwaves (Col. 8, lines 51-53). Goto thus discloses an absorbing piece made of a single material. Specifically, Goto does not disclose an absorbing piece having a predetermined composition with more than one material which can each absorb the energy at different absorption rates.

Therefore, claim 16 is not anticipated by Goto because claims 16 and 21 include a limitation that is not disclosed in Goto. Furthermore, claim 16 has been amended with limitations from claim 18 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion that claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims:

Claims 17, and 21-24 have been cancelled.

Claims 19 is dependent on claim 15 and should be allowable for the same reasons as claim 16.

Applicant, accordingly, respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-2, 4 -7, 9, 11-17, and under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Goto.

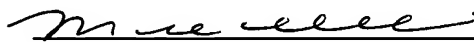
Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Michael A. Bernadicou at (408) 720-8300.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), applicant(s) hereby request and authorize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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